

A

S E R M O N

PREACHED BEFORE THE

GRATEFUL SOCIETY,

In ALL-SAINTS-CHURCH, BRISTOL,

On THURSDAY, Nov. 13, 1783,

Being the ANNIVERSARY of the NATIVITY

OF THE LATE

Edward Colston, Esq;

 PUBLISHED AT THE PARTICULAR REQUEST
OF THE SOCIETY.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

A C A T A L O G U E
Of his public BENEFACTIONS.

 By WILLIAM EMBURY EDWARDS, B. A. *RE*
Of Oriel College, Oxford, and Lecturer of
All-Saints, Bristol.

 B R I S T O L :
Printed by T. COCKING, in Small-Street,
For W. BULGIN, Bookseller, in Broad-Street.

[Price Six-pence.]

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1912

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TO

THE PRESIDENT,

COMMITTEE,

AND THE OTHER MEMBERS

OF THE GRATEFUL SOCIETY,

THE FOLLOWING SERMON

PREACHED BY THEIR APPOINTMENT,

AND PUBLISHED AT THEIR REQUEST,

IS WITH RESPECT INSCRIBED,

BY THEIR OBEDIENT SERVANT,

THE AUTHOR.



ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Profits arising from the Sale of this Sermon, will be applied to charitable Purposes by the Society. The Author, conscious of its many Imperfections, was desirous to decline every Solicitation for the printing of it: Being unwilling to intrude upon the Public a Composition which he was obliged to prepare on so short a Notice—nor could he have been at length prevailed on to comply with the Request—but from the Assurance given him, that its Publication would contribute to promote the Ends of so laudable an Institution.

TENTH CHAPTER OF PROVERBS,

PART OF THE SEVENTH VERSE.

The Memory of the Just is blessed.

THE Occasion of this Day's Solemnity is too well known to need much Recital. This sacred Temple opens her Doors, that the thankful Heart may enter and drop the Tribute of Respect, due to the Memory of a truly just and benevolent Man; and that the Mind at the same Time, impressed with the Goodness and Excellence of the Character, might be roused to imitate what it cannot but admire.

To see so many respectable Persons assembled in public Acknowledgment of their Gratitude towards so liberal a Benefactor, must inspire every feeling Bosom with unspeakable Satisfaction.

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The Duties of Religion, while they meet us in Precept alone, may, perhaps, by their seemingly severe Aspect be apt to terrify and alarm the weak and unstable Mind; but when we behold them realized in the Example of Persons, made of the same Materials with ourselves, subject to the same Temptations, and Heirs of the same Infirmities, by Nature helpless, frail, depraved; when I say we contemplate them realized in such Examples, our Doubt of Performance must give Place to Hope, our Fears be succeeded by becoming Strife.---Hence then the Advantage of holding up to public View those illustrious Characters, which have been the distinguish'd Ornaments of Society: That whilst their Perfections kindle our Admiration, they may excite our Emulation.

“The Memory of the Just is blessed,” Survivors applaud their Virtues, and are grateful for the Examples.

To make the chosen Text applicable to the present Occasion, it may be necessary first to enlarge upon the Excellence of that Virtue, which so characterized the Man, whose Memory you now celebrate, and whose Memory
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is blessed among you: We will then particularly notice his Example, and urge the Imitation.

To understand the Excellence of Charity, we must consider it under its different Points of View.----The Advantages derived to the Community from the various Exercises of Charity, are no less obvious, than important. How many Objects, of whose Labour Society has been deprived by the afflicting Hand of Penury or Disease, have been again restored to their industrious Employments, by the Munificence of public Benefactors! How many Wretches robb'd of all the Comforts of human Life, have been again restored, by the charitable Hand of the Good and Great, to Ease and Happiness!---And, blessed be GOD, however eminent this Nation may be for public Vice and Immorality, yet in the Exercise of this noble Virtue she stands unrivalled---Witness the many laudable Institutions which present themselves to our View in every Part of this Island.* We behold

* See an excellent Catalogue of our public Charities in Dr. DODD's Sermon for the Magdalen Hospital, from whence that Hint of enumerating them was collected.---Preached before the President, St. George's Church, Hanover-Square.

hold the once distressed Mother no longer brooding o'er imaginary Ills for her expected Off-spring, already provided for, by the friendly Hand of sweet Beneficence.---We behold the once disconsolate Widow, awhile forgetting the painful Separation which Providence has ordained, and smiling in her calm Retreat---We behold that Class, that sad Class, secluded from Mankind, not from Desertion of Wealth, or Frame incapable of Labour, but through that greatest of all Misfortunes, the Deprivation of Sense; these, I say, we behold in Reason's intervening Light, blessing the kind Veil that conceals them from the public Gaze---We behold also female Distress, exchange'd for female Joy; the once lost, ruin'd Daughter (whose unsuspecting Innocence fell a dire Sacrifice to some sad cruel Spoiler) recovering her deserted Bloom, restor'd to Family, restor'd to Friends---We behold blest Nurseries, where Care with her kind Attendants, and Medicine with assisting Hand, strengthen the Weak, support the enfeebled Cripple, and baffle the raging Power of Disease.----Nor must we omit to mention the Thousands of Children (and some friendless Orphans) snatched from
 Idleness

Idleness and Vice, instructed in every Branch of civil, social, and religious Duty.---Need we speak more of the Excellence of public Charity? It sufficiently speaks for itself; and Society cannot but confess the Obligation. ---We haste then for a Moment to admire those sympathetic Feelings, which prompt Men to steal into the private Habitations of the distressed, and to administer the Balm of Comfort to the Sons and Daughters of Affliction.----The compassionate Man can never be at a Loss to find Objects for the Exercise of that Virtue, which brings with it its own Reward.---He enters the melancholy Mansion, where the industrious Father and the prudent Mother, by all their Care, by all their Labour, are incapable of supplying the growing necessities of their rising Off-spring. ---He replenishes the exhausted "Barrel of Meal," he fills the "Cruse of oil,"---the Parents Hearts pour forth their Blessings, and their Babes lisp his Praise.----But he stops not here; it is not the afflicted Pauper alone that opens the Fountain of his Kindness,---there are other *Objects*, *Objects* pitiable indeed, that ask with expressive Silence the Exercise of his compassionate Liberality.

---He sees them sunk from the higher Scenes
 of Life, opposed defenceless to the Waves
 of Adversity, in vain struggling against the
 Storms of "outrageous Fortune," baffled
 and subdued.---Misfortune's iron Hand may
 rob us of Comforts and of Honours, but
 can never subdue our Feelings. "Dig, I
 cannot; to beg, I am ashamed."---Here he
 steps in the effectual tho' secret Friend.---
 He wipes the Tear from the afflicted Eye,
 and revives the drooping Heart, which over-
 flows with Gratitude to its liberal, but un-
 known Benefactor.---It is unnecessary to say
 more to evince the Amiability of Charity,
 as stated in these different Points of View.--
 It is Time that we apply what has been of-
 fer'd, to that illustrious Person, whose blef-
 sed Memory we this Day celebrate. But
 what Language can do Justice to his Me-
 rits! He soars above all human Panegyric.
 ---This City, amongst many other Places,
 bears Testimony to his unbounded Libera-
 lity. But why need we wander far? A
 striking Proof presents itself before us, and
 many who hear me, are happy to own the
 friendly Hand, the blessed Source, from
 whence

whence flow their domestic Comforts, their social Enjoyments.

The Earth, which as on this Day smiled on her new Inhabitant, has long since mourned her Loss. No more his Eye weeps for distressed Objects,---his Heart no longer bleeds for the Miseries of others. He is dead! Yet, though dead, he speaks, and whispers in every Ear, "GO AND DO LIKEWISE." Though lodged in the silent Tomb, and mingled with his kindred Dust,---he lives above---he lives on Earth---he lives, will ever live in the grateful Hearts of all who taste his Beneficence. Earthly Glories may, must fade, and the Honours of the World quickly vanish; but he has raised to himself a Monument, which the Moth of Time cannot corrode, which Eternity must confirm.

I shall not enlarge upon the Progress and Advantages of the Society here assembled,---these are better known to you, than me.---That your honest Labours have a peculiar Tendency to promote the Welfare of the Community, needs no Force of Argument

to prove; and that all who have shared the Benefits of this Society, are obligated to exert themselves in its Support, needs as little Argument. The Nature of the Charity will prove the one, and your own Feelings evince the other. You avert that Evil, to which human Nature has a strong propensity---Indolence---the Effects of which are no less than Ruin; you therefore pluck from Ruin many an Object of Respect and Honour---you cultivate a Soil, which without your Care, and Beneficence, would lie unserviceable; but which, by your Attention, is rendered fruitful in itself, and diffuseth its influence around. Nor have you been confined to this Act of Love alone, for many an afflicted Mother lives to bless your kind Protection in the painful Time of Travail.---Let the benevolent Man, actuated by the same unrestrained Principle, drop in his Assistance towards the Support of this commendable Establishment.

It is in vain, my Brethren, as a Motive to call forth your Liberality on the present Occasion, to touch your Passions; these would soon subside, and the Labour be unanswerable

ble to the End. Suffice it to have held up to your View an Example so truly great, as cannot but provoke your Imitation. But if that Example should fail to actuate your Conduct; that Example, I say, by which so many have been benefitted; let me for a Moment fix your Eyes, your Hearts upon the brightest Pattern of universal Charity---let me shew you Charity herself, in her native Element---let me shew you that heaven-born Off-spring, sitting on her antient Seat, and pitying fallen Man---let me shew her diffusing her genial Influences, through the Bosom of her Parent GOD.---Behold the omnipotent Son of Glory, leaving his eternal Throne----the Beloved of the Father, cloathing himself in mortal Vestments, humbled to the Dust.----View this great, this most illustrious Character, an Inhabitant of Earth; did any in vain request his Aid? Did any fall at his Feet, and implore his Mercy, rejected in their Suit? No Company he refused, no Danger he shrunk from, where Good could possibly be administered; unwearied in Acts of Love, “ he daily went about doing Good,” and at last closed the wondrous Scene upon the painful Cross, and died

died in Love to Man---“ if G O D then so loved us, how ought we to love one another.”*

But it may be, the Enemy of Souls will oppose Excuses to the Exercise of Charity, and may prompt us to alledge the Hardness of the Times, as a Plea to close the Door of Mercy: We may complain of the Hardness of the Times, and the Poor which have increased, by the Decrease of Manufacturing Success, will, do, severely feel the melancholy Fact. But let not the opulent complain---let not the late unhappy War, with its concomitant Expences, be a Plea (however specious in Complexion) admissible with them.---For a Moment indulge Reflection! are we less extravagant in modish Dissipation? Less splendid in Equipage? Less sumptuous in our Table? Less prodigal in Amusement? Does Pleasure feel the Nation's Tax, or rather will not the Increase of her Purchase be attended

* The Atonement of the blessed Redeemer for the Sins of his People, is the most marvellous Instance of Charity that can be displayed, and if seriously contemplated, one would think must inflame our Love of God---must influence our Conduct towards Man---genuine Affection for our Fellow-creatures must spring from that sacred Source, the Love of God.

attended with the Increase of her Fashion, and Mode sufficiently atone for Expence? Oh where is the Heart, that can possibly relish the Sweets of Life, and yet be fortified to resist the Pleadings of Poverty!

GOD profusely pours out Blessings upon us; God has, amidst the "War of Elements" surrounded us with the Shield of Salvation: And what but his Long-suffering, what but his Patience could grant such Preservation! Alas, Calabria weeps over her shocking Wreck! A Wreck as yet, perhaps, unfinished! Alas, Messina mourns a numerous Off-spring buried in her Ruins! Why may not England share the dreadful Fate, but Mercy grants to England still a further Trial.

I shall conclude this Discourse, with a brief Address to those who wish to interest themselves in the Support of this laudable Establishment.

I need not use further Motives to urge your Liberality.---That you are Men---that you are Christians,---these Thoughts forbid
the

the Attempt. But notwithstanding, let me desire, let me intreat you to reflect upon that Situation in which by Providence you are placed.---To him we are indebted for every Comfort, every Blessing, every Enjoyment. And remember, you are GOD's Stewards, and the Day, the awful, the important Day is quickly advancing, when assembled Worlds shall attend to give Account. If then you have any Respect for the Example of pious Benefactors; if you are interested in social, as well as domestic Comfort; if you have any real Love for GOD; if you have any Regard for that Jewel lodged within, that better Part, which must live and last for ever.----This, this Day produce the happy Testimony. "So shall you be laying up Treasures, where neither Moth nor Rust can corrupt:" So will approving Heaven smile on the pleasing Produce of your Faith: and when Death, the common Lot of Man, shall warn you of your finished Race, beloved, lamented shall you lie, and your Memory be ever blessed.

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F I N I S.

C A T A L O G U E

Of Mr. COLSTON'S PUBLIC BENEFACTIONS.

Given in his Life-Time, for the Beautifying, &c.

For the Beautifying and Repairing of several
CHURCHES in and about BRIS-
TOL, viz.

To All-Saints	350	0	0
Cathedral	260	0	0
St. James's	100	0	0
St. Mary-Redcliff	100	0	0
St. Michael's	50	0	0
St. Stephen's	50	0	0
Temple	160	0	0
St. Thomas	50	0	0
St. Werburgh's	160	0	0
Clifton	50	0	0

STIPENDS for Prayers and Sermons in BRISTOL.

For reading Prayers at All-Saints every Mon- }
day and Tuesday Morning, at 7l. per Ann. } 140 0 0

For a Monthly Sermon in Newgate, 6l. per Ann. 120 0 0

* For 14 Sermons in Lent, 20l. per Ann. - 400 0 0

Carried over 1890 0 0

* This Money was forfeited by the Discontinuance of the
Lent Sermons, and is now paid towards the Support of the
Charity School of St. Thomas and St. Mary Redcliff Parishes,
according to Mr. COLSTON'S Appointment. [Copies of Set-
tlement, Page 72.]

Those Sermons were revived some Years ago, and are now
preached by the Benefice Clergy of Bristol, *Gratis*.

Other BENEFACTIONS in BRISTOL.

	£.	s.	d.
Brought over	1890	0	0
Total Expence of the Hospital on St. Augustine's-Back	40000	0	0
To Queen Elizabeth's Hospital, commonly called the City School	1500	0	0
For the Maintenance of six old Seamen in the Merchant Almshouse, 24l. per Ann.	480	0	0
To St. Peter's Hospital	400	0	0
Total Expence of the Almshouse on St. Michael's Hill	8500	0	0
The Building and Endowment of the School in Temple-Street	3000	0	0

BENEFACTIONS in LONDON.

To St. Bartholomew's Hospital	2000	0	0
To Christ's Hospital	1000	0	0
To the Workhouse without Bishopsgate	100	0	0
For the Release of Debtors in Ludgate	3000	0	0
To the Poor of Whitechapel Parish	1000	0	0

In MANCHESTER, Lancashire.

Towards the Building of a Church	20	0	0
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In TIVERTON, Devon.

Towards the Building of a Church	50	0	0
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At SHEEN, in Surry.

* An Almshouse for six poor People	1000	0	0
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Carried over 63940 0 0

* As there is no certain Account of the Expence of this Almshouse, at a moderate Computation, it may be set down at 1000l.

BENEFACTIONS bequeath'd by Will.

£. s. d.
 Brought over 63940 0 0

In BRISTOL.

To four Charity Schools 40l. per Ann. to be continued 12 Years after his Decease	}	480 0 0
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In LONDON.

To St. Bartholomew's Hospital	-	500 0 0
To Christ's	-	1000 0 0
To St. Thomas's	-	500 0 0
To Bethlem	-	500 0 0
To the Workhouse without Bishopsgate	-	100 0 0
To the Society for propagating the Gospel	-	300 0 0
To the Mercers Company	-	100 0 0

At MORTLAKE, in Surry.

For the Education and Clothing of 24 poor Children, at 45l. per Ann. to be continued 12 Years after his Death	}	540 0 0
To 85 poor Persons 20s. each	-	85 0 0
For the Augmentation of small Livings	-	6000 0 0
To 18 Charity Schools 5l. per Ann. each, to be continued 12 Years after his Death	}	1080 0 0
For the Apprenticing ten poor Boys, or the setting up ten young Tradesmen, 100l. per Annum, to be continued 12 Years after his Decease	}	1200 0 0

Sum Total, 76325 0 0

☞ The Reader is requested to observe, that Mr. COLSTON's public Bounty was not by any Means oppressive to his Family—as it is well known that he bequeathed sufficient Fortunes to his Relations.

Benevolent Actions bequeathed by Will.

Brought over 6345 0 0

In Bristol.

To four Charity Schools 40l. per Ann. to be continued 12 Years after his Decese 1480 0 0

In London.

To St. Bartholomew's Hospital 200 0 0
 To Charity 1000 0 0
 To St. Thomas's 200 0 0
 To Bedlam 200 0 0
 To the Workhouse without Bishopgate 100 0 0
 To the Society for propagating the Gospel 300 0 0
 To the Mercers Company 100 0 0

At Mortlake, in Surrey.

For the Education and Clothing of 40 poor Children, at 4l. per Ann. to be continued 12 Years after his Decese 1480 0 0
 To 85 poor Persons 20s. each 200 0 0
 For the Augmentation of small Livings 6000 0 0
 To 12 Charity Schools 4l. per Ann. to be continued 12 Years after his Decese 1080 0 0
 For the Apprenticing ten poor Boys, or the raising up ten young Tradesmen, 100l. per Ann. to be continued 12 Years after his Decese 1200 0 0

Sum Total, 76345 0 0

The Reader is requested to observe, that Mr. Corston's Public Bounty was not by any Means oppressive to his Family—as it is well known that he bequeathed sufficient Fortune to his Relations.

